

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director *JEM*
H. Browning Spence, Director, Strategic & Community Planning *H.B.S./R.A.*

Community Councils Semi-Annual Report, May 2002 – September 2002

The Community Councils have focused on community mobilization, increasing council visibility, support and involvement in their target neighborhoods, advocacy for developing teen centers, education, public policy, and increasing their knowledge of the neighborhoods in the areas that they represent. The Council members attended JWB meetings, Training Center workshops, and received presentations related to their areas of concern. Members organized the semi-annual combined council meeting that was held on May 2, 2002, at JWB. A presentation on Controlled Choice and Unitary Status Implementation was received from Jim Madden, Director Unitary Status Implementation Pinellas Schools. Representatives from staff and Board members were in attendance.

Presentations were received from:

Ann Doyle, Devereux Florida, Front Porch Project
Hiram Estremera, Executive Director Highpoint Neighborhood Family Center
Michael Quinlivan, Director, Lealman Family Center
Phongoun Day, Asian Neighborhood Family Center Director
Lori James, Community Health Action Network (CHAIN) of Tampa Bay

Combined areas of involvement and interest were:

Members are currently planning the second semi-annual Combined Council meeting during which the Councils will give input into developing the JWB Strategic Plan and the 2002-2003 Legislative Priorities. Herbert A. Marlowe, Jr., Facilitator for the Strategic Plan and Debra A. Prewitt, JWB Special Assistant to the Executive Director are the presenters. During the summer, the Councils focused on organizational issues of reviewing goals that they are continuing, finalizing projects, developing work plans and elections of officers for 2002-2003. The quarterly Combined Executive Committee meeting was held August 1, during which the officers planned the upcoming combined Council meeting and discussed common concerns and activities. The Councils are in the process of setting goals for 2002-2003. The current Community Council membership is 55 members, including fifteen youth members.

Support for JWB Activities:

- Members supported the Cooperman Bogue Awards Program with a representative from each Council serving on the selection committee and Julia Stenzel of the Mid County Community Council serving as Emcee of the program.
- Council representatives attended the July 16, Juvenile Delinquency Court proceedings of Judge Irene H. Sullivan.
- Members attended the August 29 Volunteer Recognition Program and the Truth In Millage (Trim) Hearing.

- Representatives served on the Community Mobilization Task Force
- Representatives served on the Safe Start Leadership Council and participated in focus groups to develop the Safe Start Social Marketing Campaign.

Other Highlights Include:

MCCC (Mid County Community Council)

The MCCC officers for 2001-2002 were Bruce Cherkas, Chair; Richard Riley, Vice Chair; and Carol Bumiller, Secretary and these current officers were reelected to serve during 2002-2003.

Highlights include: neighborhood involvement and support for the Mid County Neighborhood Family Centers and community development initiatives in Coral Heights and Ridgecrest. The MCCC worked during this six-month period to finalize all goals. Ongoing concerns that will be a focus of goals for next year are in the area of meeting the needs of the diverse citizens in the mid county area by gaining and disseminating more information about volunteer interpreters and translators who are available in the community and increasing the diversity of the council; providing links on the JWB website to distribute more community information and information about the community councils.

Members of the Mid County Council participated in developing a Video Press Release that was broadcast on JWB TV as part of the volunteer recruitment campaign.

The Council continued to work on increasing cultural competency with monthly "Culture Breaks" where a member of the Council gives a presentation on their culture.

The MCCC has 14 members including one youth member.

Mrs. Norma Reinhardt served as the Board Liaison to the MCCC in 2002-2003.

NCCC (North County Community Council)

The NCCC officers for 2001-2002 were Anna Scott, Chairperson; Sally Bruynell, Vice Chair; Heather Samuelson, Secretary; and Beryl Cummings, Assistant Secretary.

Newly elected officers for 2002-2003 are Lisa Mansell, Chairperson; Tamsen J. Martin, Vice Chair; Beryl Cummings, Secretary; and Chris Assed, Assistant Secretary.

During this six-month period, the NCCC worked to complete all goals.

Highlights Include:

The Special Needs Committee completed its project of gathering responses from Agencies that provide mental health services for children, youth and their families in North County. The committee is now in the process of developing recommendations. The Anger Management Committee also completed its goal of surveying agencies in the North County Community that provided anger management classes. Chairperson Anna Scott actually enrolled in one of the classes as part of her research. The Adopt A Family Committee chaired by Annie Dabbs has been active with this year round project and the Council provided back-to-school clothing and supplies for the family in August.

The NCCC has 21 members including 6 youth members.

Mrs. Sandra Faulkner is the Board liaison to the NCCC.

SCCC (South County Community Council)

The SCCC officers for 2001-2002 were Margaret Redvict, Chairperson; Henry Kwoh Vice-Chair; and Karen Bolin, secretary.

Newly elected officers for 2002-2003 are Charlotte D. Hughes, Chairperson; Henry Kwoh, Vice Chair; Karen Bolin, Secretary and Ashley Elliott, Assistant Secretary.

As part of their neighborhood involvement initiative, the SCCC held its July meeting at the Asian Neighborhood Family Center. The Council received a presentation from the Director and toured the facility. Lori James, from (CHAIN) Community Health Action Network of Tampa Bay also attended the July meeting and introduced CHAIN's grassroots organization and strategies.

During this six-month period, the SCCC has focused on completion of its goal to have a major community forum. The forum is scheduled for October 12 at the Campbell Park Recreation Center and will feature presentations on health, education, and youth development.

The SCCC has 20 members including 7 youth members.

Mrs. Smith-Carroll served as the liaison to the SCCC in 2001-2002.

Combined Community Council Youth Committee

The youth committee is currently working on a new project to sponsor the Florida Children's Campaign Pinellas County "Teens Take On Politics" Candidate Debate. This debate is planned for October 30. Members of the committee are actively preparing for this event by developing issue papers and participating in workshop on public speaking and mock debates.

Staff Resource Person: Dorothy Whitlock